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Following for immediate delivery is letter from President to General de Gaulle. Advise date time delivery.

QUOTE October 9, 1959

Dear General de Gaulle:

As you know, when Mr. Khrushchev proposed at Camp David that a Summit meeting be held before I visit the Soviet Union in the Spring, I made it clear to him that I could not make any commitments regarding such a meeting because this was a question for consultation between Western Allies. Accordingly, I should very much like to learn your views on how I should reply to this proposal. In all of my talks with Mr. Khrushchev and in ~~XXXXXX~~ writing you, I have borne in mind the wide measure of agreement between you and me on this subject in our talks in Paris and Rambouillet last month. I am also writing to ascertain the views of the British Prime Minister and of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic.

As I

Drafted by:

EUR: 10/9/59

Telegraphic transmission and
dissemination approved by:

S/S - Mr. Calhoun

Classified by:

General Goodpaster (The White House)

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As I said in my last press conference it is my personal view that the Camp David talks removed many of the objections to a Summit conference. The appearance of threat and duress which had previously made it out of the question for us to meet jointly with the Soviet Chairman has in my opinion now been sufficiently altered. I think that an important condition to a Summit meeting as we discussed it in Paris has thus been met. Although Mr. Khrushchev certainly did not modify any of the substantive positions of the Soviet Government regarding Berlin, German reunification, disarmament or other major international questions during our talks, there was sufficient indication of a change of tone to justify further exploration. Throughout his discussion he insisted that disarmament is now the greatest problem confronting the world and that the Heads of Government of the major powers cannot avoid meeting to consider easing the burden of armaments and reducing the dangers inherent in them. On balance, I have concluded that it would probably be wise to arrange a Summit meeting within the reasonable future. I hope you would agree that we should now proceed to do so.

I know from our discussions in Paris we are in agreement that if such a meeting is held we must clearly be united regarding our objectives. There is a possibility that we will find ourselves

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under severe pressure to accept proposals dangerous to our interests under the threat of a total breakdown of negotiations. This is a pressure under which we were placed at Geneva. I have ~~no~~ no doubt about the West's ability to resist it. If it proves that no acceptable agreements can be worked out at the Summit, I think we will be in a better position to win world support of Western positions than if we refused to meet at all.

We are all aware of the advantages which the Soviet Union would gain from duping the West into a false sense of euphoria and security. But I think we should ~~XXXXX~~ be able satisfactorily to deal with this aspect of a Summit meeting. Judging from Mr. Khrushchev's behavior in the United States, the sedative role is not one which he can sustain for very long, and I consider that the over-all effect of his visit here has been to stimulate rather than lull our awareness of the Soviet challenge to the West.

If you agree that acceptable preconditions for a Summit meeting have now been met satisfactorily, we must consider the complicated question of a timetable which will permit the preliminary interallied consultation clearly required.

There would be some advantage to a Summit meeting in December, which, if agreements in principle are reached, would make it possible to hold more detailed negotiations at the Foreign Minister or expert level

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level before the spring. If a meeting is held in December it would have to precede the NATO Ministerial Meeting scheduled for December 15, and therefore should probably commence near the beginning of the month.

I believe that you and I should meet with our British and German colleagues before a Summit meeting. I should be delighted to play host to such a Western Summit meeting but would be prepared to come to Europe before a Summit meeting with the Soviets if that seems the most convenient arrangement for the others. I know the demands of your own heavy schedule, especially in connection with your most praiseworthy plans, to which I have given public evidence of support, to settle the Algerian question.

I await with the greatest interest your views on these questions, as well as the possible locus for the Summit.

With warm personal regard,

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower UNQUOTE

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